

1 The critical issues here are I think two: One
2 is to provide a maximum degree of latitude for county
3 government to develop, based on the economic circumstances
4 in that county, the kind of fiscal package that makes
5 sense there to finance the programs that the county will
6 want to conduct under the new grant of power made avail-
7 able by this Constitution.

8 The second requirement, which is sometimes in
9 conflict with that, is to provide a procedure which
10 assures that in developing its own tax package, that the
11 county does not intrude upon the fiscal stability and
12 the fiscal requirements of the state.

13 The proposal submitted by Delegate Needle does
14 this. It permits the county to develop, using its own
15 fiscal resources and experts, the kind of program that
16 it needs. It permits it, in fact it encourages it to
17 bring that kind of program before the General Assembly
18 for review, but it does not permit that program to go
19 into effect unless the General Assembly has approved it,
20 thereby permitting the General Assembly to assure itself
21 that there is going to be no raid on the Treasury, to